

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 01262 261609Z

56-S
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 034250

O R 261455Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5347
INFO USIA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 1262
EXDIS
3.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: CONTINUING PRESS ALLEGATIONS RE CIA ACTIVITIES IN ITALY

1. STAMPA SERA MONDAY CARRIES ARTICLE BY CARLO SARTORI ALLEGING THAT CHURCH AND PIKE COMMITTEES HAVE INFORMATION INDICATING THAT CIA PAYMENTS DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS WERE MADE TO ANDREOTTI AND DONAT FACTIONS IN DC, TO SARAGAT GROUP IN PSDI, AND TO CISL UNION LEADER SCALIA. STORY ADDS THAT ADDITIONAL POLITICIANS ALSO WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE RECEIVED PAYMENTS, ESPECIALLY THOS EXPECTED TO BE CANDIDATES IN ROME ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS THIS SPRING.

2. SARTORI SAYS THIS INFORMATION RECEIVED SATURDAY EVENING DIRECTLY FROM WASHINGTON THROUGH "PERSONS CLOSE TO MEMBERS TO THE COMMISSION."

3. STAMPA SERA CHIEF EDITOR ENNIO CARETTO, FORMER US CORRESPONDENT FOR LA STAMPA AND A RESPONSIBLE JOURNALIST ASSERTED IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS LAST WEEK THAT HIS PAPER WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN GAME OF NAMING INDIVIDUALS ALLEGED TO BE CIA, KBG OR OTHER INTELLIGENCE AGENTS, BUT THAT "RELIABLE" INFORMATION HE HAD FROM AMERICAN SOURCES MADE IT NECESSARY FOR HIM TO PUBLISH CERTAIN ALLEGATIONS. EMBOFFS STRESSED REPEATEDLY THAT ALLEGATIONS ON DECEMBER PAYMENTS WERE FALSE AND ERRONEOUS AND THAT NO PAYMENTS HAD BEEN MADE. CARETTO REPLIED THAT, REGARDLESS OF TRUTH OF MATTER, "NO ONE IN ITALY BELIEVES THIS- AND THAT CIA DIRECTOR COLBY'S

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 01262 261609Z

DENIAL CARRIED NO CREDIBILITY. HE URGED THAT EMBASSY

AND WASHINGTON ISSURE FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS IF FACTS AND POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES PERMITTED. HE STRESSED THAT US INTERESTS WERE BEING GRAVELY AFFECTED HERE AND THAT STORY WOULD NOT DIE DOWN. FAILURE TO MAKE FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS, ACCORDING TO CARETTO, MEANT THAT EVERY ALLEGATION, NO MATTER, HOW ABSURD, IS NOW ACCEPTED WITHOUT SERIOUS QUESTION.

4. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT TO RE-EXAMINE FEASIBILITY OF ISSUING DENIAL OR AUTHORIZE EMBASSY TO DO SO) IN VIEW OF ERRONEOUS INFORMATION WHICH IS BEING CIRCULATED EVERY DAY AND WHICH WE BELIEVE IS AFFECTING POLITICAL CLIMATE IN WAYS HARMFUL TO OUR INTERESTS AND POSING INCREASING THREAT TO INDIVIDUALS. VOLPE

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS ADDED PER S/SO, MR. MACFARLANE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTERVENTION, ALLEGATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JAN 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME01262
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760029-0370
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760121/aaaaashj.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 FEB 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUING PRESS ALLEGATIONS RE CIA ACTIVITIES IN ITALY
TAGS: PINT, IT, CIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006